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Forty-fifth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 September, the Third Committee, in considering General Assembly decision 44/435 of 15 December 1989, decided to establish an open-ended Working Group on the Rationalization of the Work of the Third Committee, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Juan O. Somavia (Chile), to consider appropriate ways and means of rationalizing the Committee's programme of work, including existing proposals (A/C.3/45/L.2).

2. The Working Group held 3 formal meetings, on 9 and 15 October and 28 November, and 10 informal meetings on 25 October, 1, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 20, 21 and 26 November 1990.

3. In considering the matter, the Working Group examined all aspects of the work programme of the Committee, including its substantive agenda, administrative and organizational matters and the role of the Secretariat in facilitating the work of the Committee.

4. It was agreed that the primary focus of the rationalization exercise would not be simply to reduce the Committee's agenda, but to reorganize its work in a manner that would improve both the quality of debates and impact of its deliberations and decisions, given the significance of the issues entrusted to the Committee. Discussion of issues, including the length and quality of interventions and debates, clustering of items, more succinct and relevant resolutions, distribution of interventions in the Committee and an overall general discussion of the world social situation were all approached in that light.

5. It was further considered that drawing up a draft new structure for the Committee's agenda would require co-operation and compromise on the part of all

delegations, particularly those that were principal sponsors of the various draft resolutions. It was agreed that any decision to biennialize resolutions or items must be part of a general overall agreement encompassing all items on the Committee's agenda. It was also agreed, in that regard, that delegations would not be prevented from submitting resolutions, on the understanding that the proliferation of resolutions would not be encouraged, and that decisions to present resolutions should take into account international years, decades, world conferences, congresses, anniversaries, and reviews and appraisals.

6. With regard to the responsibilities of the Secretariat, it was considered that a longer period between reports and a reduction in the number of requests for reports would enhance the quality and substance of the reports of the Secretary-General.

7. The Working Group stressed that the greatest degree of flexibility would have to be exercised in carrying out any decisions of the Third Committee on rationalization, particularly in its initial stages. In that connection, it was agreed that the programme of work of the Committee would be reviewed and approved on an annual basis to permit necessary adjustments.

8. It was the understanding of the Working Group that reports of all treaty bodies would, in accordance with their respective legislative mandates, be submitted to the General Assembly annually. Substantive resolutions on those reports would be adopted biennially. In alternate years, the Committee would simply take note of the reports unless more substantive action was deemed appropriate.

9. Except where agreed, requests for status reports on treaties should be made biennially. Such requests should not be contained in a separate resolution but should be incorporated in the substantive resolutions concerning the reports of the treaty bodies.

10. It was also agreed that the items on racism and racial discrimination and self-determination would continue to be discussed jointly.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

11. Bearing in mind the aforementioned understandings, the Working Group recommends to the Third Committee the adoption of sections I to III of the present report. Section I contains the proposed structure of the agenda of the Third Committee. Section II contains a draft biennial programme of work for the Third Committee for 1991 and 1992, based on the draft proposals adopted by the Third Committee at the present session. Section III contains recommendations concerning organizational matters.

I. PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE AGENDA OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [item 12].

Item 2. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination. 1/

Item 3. Right of peoples to self-determination. 1/

Item 4. Social development:

(a) Questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, aging, disabled persons and the family; 2/

(b) Crime prevention and criminal justice. 2/

Item 5. Advancement of women.

Item 6. Narcotic drugs.

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; questions relating to refugees and displaced persons; and humanitarian questions:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; 3/

(b) Questions relating to refugees and displaced persons; 3/

(c) Humanitarian questions. 3/

Item 8. Human rights questions:

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; 4/

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives. 4/

1/ Items 2 and 3 to be discussed jointly.

2/ Sub-items (a) and (b) to be discussed separately.

3/ Sub-items (a), (b) and (c) to be discussed jointly.

4/ Sub-items (b) and (c) to be discussed jointly.

READEX FICHE

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

- Questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination 1/

Annual

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

Biennial

Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist régime of South Africa (1992)

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1992)

Item 3. Right of peoples to self-determination 1/

Annual

Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights

Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of people to self-determination (to be considered biennially after the entry into force of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries)

Item 4. Social development

(a) Questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, aging, disabled persons and the family 2/

Annual

World social situation 5/

Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities (biennial after 1993)

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (biennial after end of Decade in 1992)

Biennial

Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights (1993)

Achievement of social justice (1992)

Policies and programmes involving youth (1992)

International Year of the Family, 1994 (1991, 1993, 1994; thereafter, biennial, if necessary)

Implementation of the Guiding Principles for Development, Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future (1991)

National experience in promoting the co-operative movement (1992)

International Literacy Year (1991)

5/ Year 1 (1991) Interim report on the world social situation and report of the Commission for Social Development.

Year 2 (1992) General debate on the basis of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

Year 3 (1993) Report on the world social situation and report of the Commission for Social Development.

Year 4 (1994) General debate on the basis of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

Every five years

Anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (1994)

(b) Crime prevention and criminal justice 2/

Biennial

Crime prevention and criminal justice (1991, 1993)

International co-operation in combating organized crime (1992, 1994)

Every five years

Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1995)

Item 5. Advancement of women

Annual

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

Biennial

United Nations Development Fund for Women (1991)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1992)

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (1991)

National experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (1993)

Item 6. Narcotic drugs

Annual

Implementation of the global programme of action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking

Biennial

Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1992)

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; questions relating to refugees and displaced persons; and humanitarian questions 3/

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Annual

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(b) Questions relating to refugees and displaced persons

Annual

International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa

International Conference on Central American Refugees

Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

Assistance to refugees in Somalia

Assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad

Assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia

Assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi

Humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti

Emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons

(c) Humanitarian questions

Biennial

New international humanitarian order (1992)

Promotion of international co-operation in the humanitarian field (1992)

Humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations (1992)

Item 8. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments 6/

Annual

Effective immplementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

Convention on the Rights of the Child (biennial after 1992)

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (biennial after the entry into force of the Convention)

Biennial

Report of the Committee against Torture and status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1992)

International Covenants on Human Rights (1991)

Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1992)

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (1991)

(b) Human rights questions including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms 4/

Annual

Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Right to development

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (biennial after the adoption of the Declaration)

Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes

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6/ Sub-item (a) to be discussed separately.

Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections

World conference on human rights

Torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in South Africa

Biennial

Respect for the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others and its contribution to the economic and social development of Member States (1992)

Human rights and mass exoduses (1991)

Human rights in the administration of justice (1991)

Summary or arbitrary executions (1992)

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights (1992)

Guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files

Human rights and scientific and technological developments (1991)

National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (1991)

International co-operation in solving international problems of a social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms (1992)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (1992)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and the Pacific region (1992)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Annual

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

II. DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE FOR 1991-1992

1991

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Documentation

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

- Questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/C.3/45/L.5, para. 26)

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/C.3/45/L.7, paras. 9 and 10)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (A/C.3/45/L.11)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (resolution 2106 A (XX))

Item 3. Right of peoples to self-determination

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights (A/C.3/45/L.9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/C.3/45/L.10, para. 10)

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of assistance to colonial Territories and peoples (A/C.3/45/L.6, paras. 36 and 37)

Item 4. Social development

(a) Questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, aging, disabled persons and the family 5/

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (A/C.3/45/L.18/Rev.1, para. 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work being done within the United Nations system to improve and further develop quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure accurately the social condition and the standard of living of the world's population, particularly in developing countries (A/C.3/45/L.18/Rev.1, para. 11)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities (A/C.3/45/L.12/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the preparation of the International Year of the Family (A/C.3/45/L.14/Rev.1, para. 14)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (A/C.3/45/L.17, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in implementing and following up the Guiding Principles for Development, Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future (resolution 44/65, paras. 14 and 15)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for International Literacy Year (resolution 44/127)

(b) Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice (A/C.3/45/L.29/Rev.1, para. 15)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of the United Nations African Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders and all other autonomous institutes of the United Nations (draft decision A/C.3/45/L.102)

Report brought to the attention of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ministerial Meeting on proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme (A/CONF.144/28, resolution 2, para. 6)

Item 5. Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Secretary-General on the resources available and necessary to ensure adequate support to CEDAW and for the effective implementation of all other aspects of the programme on advancement of women (A/C.3/45/L.22, paras. 12 and 16)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (A/C.3/45/L.25, para. 26)

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/C.3/45/L.19/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the interregional consultations on women in public life (A/C.3/45/L.21)

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/C.3/45/L.24)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (resolution 44/60, paras. 8 and 9)

Item 6. Narcotic drugs

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking (A/C.3/45/L.40, para. 4)

Report of the Secretary-General on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking and on economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances (A/C.3/45/L.43/Rev.1, sect. B, paras. 2, 5 and 6)

Annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (A/C.3/45/L.41, para. 4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control (A/C.3/45/L.44, para. 14)

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons, and humanitarian questions 7/

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the Secretary-General (A/C.3/45/L.64, para. 17)

(b) Questions relating to refugees and displaced persons

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons (A/C.3/45/L.60, para. 10)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Central American Refugees (A/C.3/45/L.65, para. 16)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa (A/C.3/45/L.91, para. 11)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of refugees in Sudan (A/C.3/45/L.79, para. 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees in Somalia (A/C.3/45/L.71, para. 12)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad (A/C.3/45/L.75, para. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia (A/C.3/45/L.80, para. 4)

7/ Sub-items (a) and (b) to be discussed jointly.

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi (A/C.3/45/L.78, para. 8)

Report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti (A/C.3/45/L.76, para. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons (A/C.3/45/L.63, para. 6)

Item 8. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments 6/

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments of human rights (A/C.3/45/L.50, para. 9 (b))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/C.3/45/L.51, para. 10)

Report of the Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 39/46)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/C.3/45/L.49, para. 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/C.3/45/L.53, para. 19)

Report of the Human Rights Committee

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/C.3/45/L.77, paras. 6 and 7)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms 4/

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development (A/C.3/45/L.28, para. 7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in South Africa (A/C.3/45/L.54, para. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (resolution 44/64, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/C.3/45/L.70, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the action of the United Nations in the human rights field through the promotion of international co-operation and the strict observance of the principle of non-intervention (A/C.3/45/L.82, para. 9)

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights (A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights (A/C.3/45/L.72/Rev.1, para. 3)

Report of the Secretary-General on a draft programme of activities on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (A/C.3/45/L.84, para. 7)

Report of the Secretary-General on his findings in pursuance of paragraphs 10 and 11 of resolution A/C.3/45/L.56, as amended and on the United Nations experience in election monitoring (A/C.3/45/L.56, as amended, paras. 10 and 11)

Draft resolution entitled "Respect for the will of the people of Myanmar" (A/C.3/45/L.58) (A/C.3/45/SR.57)

Report of the Secretary-General on the respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (A/C.3/45/L.59, para. 10)

Draft resolution entitled "Non-discrimination and protection of minorities" (A/C.3/45/L.83) (A/C.3/45/SR.58)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights in the administration of justice (A/C.3/45/L.86, para. 12)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

1992

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Documentation

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

- Questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/C.3/45/L.5)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (resolution 2106 A (XX))

Report of the Special Rapporteur on adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist régime of South Africa (A/C.3/45/L.4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/C.3/45/L.8)

Item 3. Right of peoples to self-determination

Documentation

Item 4. Social development 8/

(a) Questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, aging, disabled persons and the family

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the role of co-operatives in the light of new economic and social trends (resolution 44/58, para. 4)

8/ General debate on the world social situation on the basis of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the policies and programmes involving youth (A/C.3/45/L.13, para. 14) 9/

(b) Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council on international co-operation in combating organized crime (resolution 44/71 and A/C.3/45/L.33, para. 3)

Item 5. Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/C.3/45/L.22, para. 4) 9/

Item 6. Narcotic drugs

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (A/C.3/45/L.39, para. 7)

Annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (A/C.3/45/L.41, para. 4)

9/ Adjusted to conform to biennial programme of work.

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; questions relating to refugees and displaced persons; and humanitarian questions 3/

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(b) Questions relating to refugees and displaced persons

(c) Humanitarian questions

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations (A/C.3/45/L.27, para. 8)

Report of the Secretary-General on a new international humanitarian order (A/C.3/45/L.31, para. 5)

Item 8. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Report of the Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 39/46)

Report of the Human Rights Committee

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/C.3/45/L.69, para. 5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/C.3/45/L.49, para. 9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (A/C.3/45/L.74, para. 2)

(b) Human rights questions including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities (A/C.3/45/L.35, para. 16)

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights (A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, para. 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of the regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/C.3/45/L.87, para. 10)

Report of the Secretary-General on the views of Member States on General Assembly resolution 43/124 regarding the impact of property in the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (oral draft decision A/C.3/45/SR.51)

Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region (A/C.3/45/L.88, para. 8)

III. RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Pre-sessional documentation

1. Pre-sessional documentation should be circulated six weeks in advance in all working languages.

Introductory statements by Secretariat officials

2. Texts of introductory statements by Secretariat officials should be circulated to delegations in the original language and in the other official languages, if possible, at least three days in advance of the introduction of the item. Oral introductory statements should not exceed 15 minutes' duration and should only highlight areas of special interest.

3. Secretariat officials should, at the end of the debate on a particular item, respond to matters raised and to questions asked.

Statements by delegations

4. In accordance with rule 106 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 22 of decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, at the beginning of each session the Chairman should propose to the Third Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers. While it is understood that this decision will have to be applied with a degree of flexibility, delegations are encouraged to exercise self-discipline in this respect.

5. Copies of interventions made by delegations will be distributed by the conference officers. If a delegation is in a position to provide 200 copies, they may be circulated to all delegations during delivery of the statement. If only a limited number of copies can be provided, they may be given to the conference officer for placement at the back of the conference room.

Programme of work

6. The Secretariat should propose the Third Committee's programme of work on the basis of experience gained at previous sessions of the Committee so that sufficient time is allocated for the consideration of a given item.

Questions for further consideration

7. Further consideration should be given to:

(a) The question of inviting eminent persons to address the Third Committee on the world social situation or other issues. It was considered that the experience of other Committees with that matter should be reviewed;

(b) The question of the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council and the relationship of that exercise to the work of the Third Committee;

(c) The relationship between the work of Second and Third Committees.

Omnibus draft resolutions

8. Delegations are encouraged, to the extent possible, to draw up omnibus resolutions and to make resolutions as short and concise as possible.

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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Australia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.82

1. First preambular paragraphs, line 3: for the need read its determination and for the words after progress read and better standards of life in larger freedom

2. Second preambular paragraph, line 1: delete cardinal

3. Insert a new third preambular paragraph reading

Also bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

4. Former third preambular paragraph: delete all words after Charter of the United Nations and insert the United Nations shall promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being, which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and that all Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55,

5. Delete the former fourth preambular paragraph and insert:

Desirous of achieving further progress in international co-operation in the field of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international co-operation should be based on the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments,

Deeply convinced that such co-operation should be based on a profound understanding of the economic, social and cultural realities and the variety of problems existing in different societies;

6. Former fifth preambular paragraph, line 1: delete all words after 1977

7. Delete the former sixth preambular paragraph.

8. Former seventh preambular paragraph, line 2: delete a Member State or a group of States

9. Delete former eighth to tenth preambular paragraphs and insert:

Bearing in mind also that mass and flagrant violations of human rights in one State may threaten the peace and development of neighbouring States, of a region or of the international community as a whole,

Recognizing that violations of human rights, wherever they exist, are of concern to the United Nations,

Emphasizing that the absence of peace or development can never exempt a State from its obligation to ensure respect for the human rights of its nationals and of other persons within its jurisdiction,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights without distinction of any kind, as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under various international instruments in the field of human rights,

10. Delete operative paragraph 1 and insert:

Reaffirms that by virtue of their right to self-determination, all peoples freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

11. Delete operative paragraph 2 and insert:

2. Calls upon all Member States to base their activities for the protection and promotion of human rights, including the development of further international co-operation in this field, on the Charter of the United

Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with this international legal framework;

3. Considers that such co-operation should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights, to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

12. Former operative paragraph 3, last line: delete subject to such campaigns

13. Former operative paragraph 4, line 1: for to achieve dissemination of read for

14. Former operative paragraph 5, line 2: after legal system insert and in accordance with their obligations under international human rights treaties

15. Delete former operative paragraphs 6 to 9.

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General Assembly

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A/C.3/45/L.102
4 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100

CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Sweden: draft decision

Crime prevention and criminal justice

The General Assembly

(a) Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Programme to explore, as a matter of urgency, the possibilities for full funding of the United Nations African Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders through voluntary contributions;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the situation of the United Nations African Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders and all other autonomous institutes of the United Nations, including proposals, if appropriate, for a balance between voluntary contributions and financing through the regular budget.

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Draft resolution proposed by the Chairman

Rationalization of the work of the Third Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 44/435 of 15 December 1989 in which it decided to defer consideration of the draft decision entitled "Programme of work of the Third Committee" until its forty-fifth session, 1/

Recalling also that the Third Committee, at its organizational meeting on 24 September 1990, decided to establish an open-ended working group on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee to consider appropriate ways and means of rationalizing the Committee's programme of work, including existing proposals, 2/

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Working Group on the Rationalization of the Work of the Third Committee; 3/

2. Adopts the new proposed structure of the agenda of the Third Committee as contained in section I of the annex to the present resolution;

3. Approves its biennial programme of work for 1991 and 1992, as contained in section II of the annex;

1/ See A/C.3/45/L.2.

2/ A/C.3/45/SR.2.

3/ A/C.3/45/L.100.

4. Endorses the recommendations concerning organizational matters, as contained in section III of the annex;

5. Decides to implement the provisions of the present resolution beginning at its forty-sixth session;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take the present resolution into account in drawing up future agendas of the General Assembly.